LIST OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (cancelled)

2.   (original) A signal flow driven circuit physical synthesis technique by tracing circuit signal flow so that, placing and routing circuit cell physical layout based on giving critical signal path with high priority are done by software program automatically.

3-4.   (cancelled)

5.   (currently amended) A ~~mean of~~ method for performing circuit physical synthesis utilizing:

(a)   ~~The~~ generating a layout constraint using open circuit time constant technique on a multitude of critical nodes

(b)   ~~The~~ applying the signal flow driven circuit physical synthesis technique of claim 2, and

(c)   applying a ~~The~~ signal flow driven circuit analysis technique ~~of claim 1~~ tracing circuit signal flow so that, analyzing a circuit, and partitioning a circuit is based on functionality and criticality, and generating a multitude of circuit layout constraints are done by a software program ~~automatically~~.

6-12   (cancelled)